

on our Embassy in Athens. And we appreciate the determination of Greek authorities to bring those responsible for this attack to justice. We're grateful for the many messages of sympathy and support we've received after those attacks.

We also share with Greece important ties of faith, Your Eminence. The Greek Orthodox Church counts more than 1 million members in the United States, and it plays a vital role in the spiritual life of our Nation. Your Eminence, I thank you and congratulate you on 40 years of ministry as a bishop. You're providing necessary and important leadership here in the United States. You are a man of wisdom. You're a man of prayer. I appreciated your thoughtful response to me and Laura after the September the 11th attacks. These were tough times for our Nation, and your comforting call meant a lot to me.

I thank you for your determination to rebuild what was lost on that terrible day. On 9/11, the terrorists who struck Manhattan brought down not only magnificent skyscrapers but a humble house of worship. Before those attacks, St. Nicholas Church stood just south of the second tower of the World Trade Center. Your vision is for a new St. Nicholas to rise just a few steps from its original site. And with your help, St. Nicholas will once again be a sanctuary of faith in New York's financial district and a new center of reconciliation for visitors from all over the world.

I thank you very much, Your Eminence, for gracing this house. This is the people's house. This belongs to everybody who's an American. I thank you for your vision of peace. I thank you for your spirituality. And I thank you for joining me as we celebrate Greek Independence Day.

May God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:10 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Archbishop Demetrios, Primate of the Greek Orthodox Church in America; Minister of Foreign Affairs Dora Bakoyannis of Greece; Greece's Ambassador to the U.S. Alexandros P. Mallias; Cyprus's Ambassador to the U.S. Andreas S. Kakouris; Reverend Father Alex Karloutsos, assistant to the Archbishop for public affairs; and Prime Minister Fuad Siniora of Lebanon.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

March 17

In the morning, at Camp David, MD, the President had an intelligence briefing.

March 18

In the morning, the President returned to Washington, DC, arriving in the afternoon.

March 19

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono of Indonesia. He then had an intelligence briefing and met with the National Security Council. Later, in the Situation Room, he and Vice President Dick Cheney participated in a video teleconference with Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki of Iraq.

In the afternoon, in the Map Room, the President participated in a photo opportunity with members of the Boone and Crockett Club.

March 20

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales. Later, he had an intelligence briefing. He then traveled to Kansas City, MO, where, upon arrival, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Rob Mullin, Jr.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Fairfax, KS, where he toured the General Motors Fairfax Assembly Plant. Later, he traveled to Claycomo, MO, where he toured the Ford Motor Company—Kansas City Assembly Plant.

Later in the afternoon, the President returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced that he has named Julie Cram as Deputy Assistant to the President and Director of Public Liaison.

The President announced that he has named Brent McIntosh as Deputy Assistant to the President and Deputy Staff Secretary.

The President announced that he has named Dan Meyer as Deputy Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs.

The President announced that he has named David Boyer as Special Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs.

The President announced that he has named Daniel J. Kaniewski as Special Assistant to the President for Homeland Security and Senior Director for Response Policy.

The President announced that he has named Matt Latimer as Special Assistant to the President for Speechwriting.

The President announced that he has named Stacie Maass as Special Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy.

March 21

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, in the Old Family Dining Room, the President had a working lunch with Prime Minister Helen Clark of New Zealand. Later, in the Oval Office, he participated in a photo opportunity with the 2007 White House News Photographers Association "Eyes of History" winners.

Later in the afternoon, in Room 350 of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building, the President met with chief executive officers from the Business Roundtable.

The President announced his intention to nominate Michael J. Sullivan to be Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives at the Department of Justice.

The President announced his intention to accord the personal rank of Ambassador to Thomas A. Schweich during his tenure as Coordinator for Counternarcotics and Justice Reform in Afghanistan.

March 22

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the evening, in the State Dining Room, the President and Mrs. Bush hosted a reception in honor of the Education Department's

National Higher Education Transformation Summit, "A Test of Leadership: Committing to Advanced Postsecondary Education for All Americans."

March 23

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, at the historic Evermay house, the President attended a Republican National Committee luncheon. Later, in the Oval Office, he participated in a signing ceremony for H.R. 584, designating the Lyndon Baines Johnson Department of Education Building.

Later in the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Camp David, MD.

The President announced his intention to nominate Janet E. Garvey to be Ambassador to Cameroon.

The President announced his intention to nominate George A. Krol to be Ambassador to Turkmenistan.

The President announced his intention to nominate R. Lyle Lavery to be Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Fish and Wildlife and Commissioner of the U.S. Section of the Great Lakes Fishing Commission.

The President announced his intention to nominate R. Neils Marquardt to be Ambassador to Madagascar and Comoros.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted March 19

Sharion Aycock,
of Mississippi, to be U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Mississippi, vice Glen H. Davidson, retiring.

David R. Dugas,
of Louisiana, to be U.S. District Judge for the Middle District of Louisiana, vice Frank J. Polozola, retired.